## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial bacterial population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial antibacterial composition, wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition consists of a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent selected from EDTA, TRIEN and diethyltriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA), Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (TRIZMA Base), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the chelating agent and the antimicrobial antibacterial agent have concentrations selected to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.

- 2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - (a) identifying the microbial bacterial population;
- (b) identifying an antibiotic antibacterial agent capable of inhibiting proliferation of the microbial bacterial population;
- (c) determining the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and the fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC) values for the antibiotic antibacterial agent and the chelating agent; and
- (d) selecting concentrations of the antibiotic antibacterial agent and the chelating agent of the antimicrobial antibacterial composition to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.
  - 3. (Canceled)
  - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent is ethylenediamenetetracetic acid (EDTA).

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable

chelating agent is triethylene tetramine dihydrochloride (TRIEN).

7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is an antibiotic selected from the group consisting of

a β-lactam, an aminoglycoside, a vancomycin, a bacitracin, a macrolide, an erythromycin, a

lincosamide, a chloramphenicol, a tetracycline, a gentamicin, an amphotericin, a cefazolin, a

clindamycin, a mupirocin, a nalidixic acid, a sulfonamide and trimethoprim, a streptomycin, a

rifampicin, a metronidazole, a quinolone, a novobiocin, a polymixin and a Gramicidin.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is further selected from the group consisting of a

β-lactam, an aminoglycoside, a vancomycin, a chloramphenicol, an erythromycin, a tetracycline,

gentamicin, nalidixic acid and a streptomycin.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is oxytetracycline.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is amikacin.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is neomycin.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is biologically active against a Gram-negative

bacterial species.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the pharmaceutically

acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent is biologically active against a Gram-positive

bacterial species.

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Suite 2800 Seattle, Washington 98101 206.682.8100 14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the microbial bacterial population is a bacterial infection comprising at least one Gram-negative bacterial genus selected from the group consisting of Aeromonas, Pseudomonas, Escherichia, Enterococcus, Yersinia, Vibrio, Flexibacter, Nocardia, Flavobacterium, Edwardsiella and Cytophyagia.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the microbial bacterial population is a bacterial infection comprising at least one Gram-positive bacterial genus selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus, Staphylococcus*, and *Mycobacterium*.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin injury is a burn.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin injury is an abrasion.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin injury is an ulcer.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the surface lesion is a lesion of the oral mucosa of a human or animal patient.

22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition is a mouthwash for inhibiting the proliferation of a microbial bacterial population of the oral cavity of a human or animal.

23-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial bacterial population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial antibacterial composition, wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition consists of a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent selected from EDTA, TRIEN and diethylenetriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA), Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (TRIZMA Base), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and does not include TGF-β, wherein the chelating agent and the antimicrobial antibacterial agent have concentrations

selected to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.

- 57. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 56, further comprising the steps of:
  - (a) identifying the microbial bacterial population;
- (b) identifying an antibiotic capable of inhibiting proliferation of the microbial bacterial population;
- (c) determining the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and the fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC) values for the antibiotic and the chelating agent; and
- (d) selecting concentrations of the antibiotic and the chelating agent to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.
- 58. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial bacterial population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial antibacterial composition, wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition consists of EDTA, Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (TRIZMA Base), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and does not include TGF-β, wherein the chelating agent and the antimicrobial antibacterial agent have concentrations selected to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.
  - 59. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 58, further comprising the steps of:
    - (a) identifying the microbial bacterial population;
- (b) identifying an antibiotic capable of inhibiting proliferation of the microbial bacterial population;

(c) determining the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and the fractional

inhibitory concentration (FIC) values for the antibiotic and the chelating agent; and

(d) selecting concentrations of the antibiotic and the chelating agent to allow

synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to

inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion

of the human or animal patient.

60. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial bacterial

population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising

contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial antibacterial composition,

wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition consists of a pharmaceutically acceptable

antimicrobial antibacterial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent selected from

EDTA, TRIEN and diethylenetriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA), Tris (hydroxymethyl)

aminomethane (TRIZMA Base), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and does not include

TGF-β, wherein the chelating agent and the antimicrobial antibacterial agent have concentrations

selected to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said

chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or

the surface lesion of the human or animal patient, and wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial

composition is delivered to the skin injury or skin lesion as an aqueous wash.

61. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial bacterial

population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising

contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial antibacterial composition,

wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition consists of a pharmaceutically acceptable

antimicrobial antibacterial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent selected from

EDTA, TRIEN and diethylenetriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA), Tris (hydroxymethyl)

aminomethane (TRIZMA Base), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and does not include

TGF-β, wherein the chelating agent and the antimicrobial antibacterial agent have concentrations

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Suite 2800 Seattle, Washington 98101 206.682.8100 selected to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.

62. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial bacterial population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial antibacterial composition, wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition consists of a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial antibacterial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent selected from EDTA, TRIEN and diethylenetriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA), Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (TRIZMA Base), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and does not include TGF-β, wherein the chelating agent and the antimicrobial antibacterial agent have concentrations selected to allow synergistic cooperation between said antimicrobial antibacterial agent and said chelating agent to inhibit proliferation of the microbial bacterial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient, and wherein the antimicrobial antibacterial composition is delivered to a medical dressing.

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